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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action EA

Info SS GPM SP SC SAH L H SAL IO P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA DOD AID RSR ISC

P R 2712492 JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 28979

022826

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A) SAIGON 5812, JUNE 26, 1966 B) SAIGON 22403, APRIL 7, 1967

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER LE CONG THANH INFORMS US THAT AFTERNOON JUNE 27 GENERAL THIEU FILED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY WITH OA HAO LEADER TRINH QUOC KHANH AS HIS RUNNING-MATE.

2. KHANH IS PRAESIDIUM MEMBER OF UNIFIED VIET NAM SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (REF A), A POLITICAL FACTION COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF HOA HAO LEADERS AT

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 28979 C O N F I D E N T I A L
ODDS WITH MORE INFLUENTIAL HOA HAO ORGANIZATION HEADED BY TEMPORARY SECRETARIAT. KHANH ALSO A MEMBER OF RECENTLY FORMED COMMITTEE STRUGGLING FOR REVOLUTION AND DEMOCRACY(REF B), A FRONT COMPOSE OF LESSER POLITICIANS OF VARIOUS TENDENCIES. HARD CORE OF COMMITTEE IS AGAIN HOA HAO, PRINCIPALLY KHANH AND BUD-TIME POLITICIAN PHAN BA CAM. APART FROM COMMITTEE'S INAUGURAL PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED REF B, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY THIS GROUP.

3. IN 1966 BOTH KHANH AND PHAN BA CAM WERE MEMBERS OF FATHER HOANG QUYNH'S FRONT FOR ALL RELIGIONS WHICH CALLED FOR BOYCOTT OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

4. KHANH WAS BORN IN 1913. HE WAS REPORTEDLY JAILED FOR SEVEN YEARS BY THE DEIM ADMINISTRATION. HE WAS NAMED TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY 1965. EARLY IN 1966 HE WAS NOMINATE FOR MEMBERSHIP TO ABORTIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR BUILDING DEMOCRACY.

CONFIDENTIAL

BUNKER
BT

NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA AT 2:00 P.M. 6/27/67

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Ingberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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